

REMARKS:

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated claim 22 as allowable and rejected claims 1-21 and 23-28. Claims 1, 7 and 22-28 are amended herein. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1-28 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

At item 9 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112. Claim 22 is amended herein to overcome the §112 rejection.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112:

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner asserts that automatically updating a shared central subscriber directory used over a network by different autonomous telephony messaging systems to route subscriber messages, which is set forth in the preamble, is not performed in the claims. Claims 1, 7, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 28 are amended herein to recite that the updated shared central subscriber directory is updated and used by the different autonomous telephony messaging systems.

Further, applicable amendments are made to claim 26 to clarify the invention and include features in the body thereof.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,677 (Reformato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,162,467 (Eshleman).

Reformato does not teach or suggest "automatically updating the shared central subscriber directory including corresponding voice messaging subscriber information based on the update request, where the updated shared central subscriber directory is used by the

different autonomous telephony messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages", as recited in claim 1. See also claims 24, 25, 26 and 28 reciting similar features.

In contrast, Reformato is limited to updating a record pertaining to a message waiting for a subscriber such as whether the message has been reviewed by the subscriber (see, col. 14, lines 23-36, col. 17, lines 2-17 and Fig. 5). Meaning, the updating in Reformato is limited to updating information of a single subscriber.

Claim 7 recites, "updating the shared subscriber directory server in real-time based on the update request whereby an updated shared central subscriber directory of said server is used by the different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route voice subscriber messages." Independent claim 23 also recites that the "voice messaging subscriber directory is used to route voice subscriber messages across said different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems based on said updating."

Similarly, claim 27 recites, "synchronizing corresponding routing directories of each of the telephony messaging systems... where the telephony messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors and said the shared subscriber directory is used across the telephony messaging systems to exchange messages."

Reformato does not teach or suggest the claimed "updating" and "routing the messages using the updated directory", as taught by the claimed invention (see above discussion of claims).

Instead, the updated information in Reformato is only reflected in stored messages such as retrieval status of a message by the subscriber (see, col. 14, lines 23-36).

As mentioned above, the independent claims patentably distinguish over Reformato. Further, as Eshleman merely discloses individual updates to cache databases of remote server units, Eshleman does not cure the deficiencies of Reformato regarding the independent claims of the present application.

Eshleman does not teach or suggest appending the update request to a queue "in response to an event that changes voice messaging subscriber information" and reading "each update request from the queue on a first-in first-out basis", as recited in claim 1. Each of the other independent claims also recite appending an update request relating to "voice" messaging subscriber information and reading "on a first-in first-out basis".

Instead, the FIFO (First In First Out) queue to hold the update requests in Eshleman pertains to updates into the cache databases of the remote server units (see, col. 7, lines 40-50, col. 15, lines 1-6 and Figs. 3A and 3B including corresponding text).

Reformato and Eshleman, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest "updating a shared directory" of voice messaging systems when certain event is received and "routing" the message using the updated information of the shared directory, as taught by the claimed invention (see above discussion of claims).

Further, even assuming arguendo that Reformato and Eshleman did disclose the features discussed by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no apparent motivation to combine the cited references. The Examiner stated that the combination of the references would be obvious for the purpose of increasing efficiency of the application server by reducing network traffic.

The record, however, fails to provide the required evidence of a motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to perform such modification at the time of the invention. While Eshleman may discuss a simple FIFO queue to hold the update requests, Reformato fails to suggest why a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to incorporate the FIFO queue for updating remote server units in Eshleman to update a record pertaining to a message waiting for a single subscriber such as discussed in Reformato.

MPEP §2143.01 states that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so. Therefore, there is no requisite motivation to combine Reformato and Eshleman.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

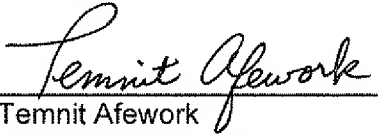
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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